

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings replace the original sheets 1, 2, and 3.

Attachment: 3 replacement sheets

REMARKS

Claims were amended and canceled to clarify and particularly point out patentable subject matter. It is believed that the amendments to the claims do not address any issues of patentability. No new matter had been added.

In response to the objection to the drawings, the replacement sheets are enclosed herewith. Entry of the revised drawings is respectfully requested.

In response to the claim objections, Applicant's claims are amended to address various informalities indicated in the Office Action. In particular, at the end of line 7 of claim 1, following "for a given type (405) of network element", a semicolon is inserted. All labeling of parts within the claims is removed. In claim 11, "subfield" is amended to "field" in order to be consistent with the prior recitation. Withdrawal of all objections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

According to the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,671,495 (Lappetelamen). To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Office Action, Applicant's claims are amended as follows:

Claim 4 is canceled without prejudice. The allowable subject matter of claim 4 is incorporated into independent claim 1, thereby making claim 1 and dependent claim 7, 9, 11, 13 and 23 allowable.

Claim 15 contains features similar to those in claim 1, as presently amended. Hence, the analysis of independent claim 15 is similar to claim 1, as presented hereinabove. To avoid repetition, claim 15 will not be discussed in detail with the understanding that it is patentable at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 24 depends from independent claim 15, which has been shown to be allowable over the prior art reference. Accordingly, claim 15 is also allowable by virtue of its dependency, as well as the additional subject matter recited therein.

Claim 3, 17 and 18 are canceled by this amendment, thereby obviating the rejection in the Office Action.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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